[English]

Siberian Cranes

1711. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wild Siberian Cranes which flew this year from Siberia to Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur, Rajasthan;

(b) whether the experiment of fixing satellites in their wings to avoid their killing on the way has been successful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Three Siberian cranes arrived in Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur, Rajasthan in November, 1996.

(b) No, Sir. Attempts to trap one of the birds for fixing the Platform Terminal Transmitter (PTT) did not succeed.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Stocks of Wheat and Rice

1712. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India had sold wheat and rice in the open market to reduce huge stocks of foodgrains and control prices of foodgrains in the open market;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice which remained in the godowns during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) the quantity of wheat and rice sold during each of said years; and

(d) the maximum and minimum prices thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) FCI was allowed to make open sale of wheat and rice on the following important grounds :

(i) to release much needed storage space for fresh procurement;

(ii) to reduce the carrying cost of stocks with FCI;

(iii) to exercise, as a measure of market intervention, a sobering effect on the open market prices;

(iv) to reduce, to some extent, the burden on food subsidy.

(b) The stock position of wheat and rice in Central Pool keeps on varying on day to day basis. However, the stock position at the close of the last three Financial Years is as under :—

Figures in Lakh Tonnes
(Provisional)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Total
31.3.94	69.98	135.46	205.44
31.3.95	87.20	180.82	268.02
31.3.96	81.70	139.72	221.42

(c) The following quantity of wheat and rice were sold under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (Audited figures):—

(Figs. in Lakh MT)

Year	Wheat	Rice
1993-94	28.70	0.90
1994-95	51.90	4.90
1995-96	65.10	19.70

(d) The following are the maximum and minimum prices during the said periods in Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic):—

(Rate Rs. per M.T.)

Year	Wheat		Rice	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
1993-94	3850	4800	6600	7100
1994-95	4100	4700	6500	7250
1995-96	4100	4700	6600	7350

[English]

Decline in Sugar Production

1713. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar production declined by 43% in the second month of the current season;